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The Cultivist's Top 12 International Hidden Art Gems

<http://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2015/08/05/t-magazine/cultivist-art-secrets.html?smid=tw-nytimes&r=1>

by: **Alexandria Symonds**

The women at the helm of the Cultivist, a members'-club-cum-concierge-service for art enthusiasts, are just the kind of people you would want to e-mail before taking a trip. They're well traveled, well connected and able to suggest places to visit that won't be glutted with tourists — as well as the secret spots tucked away in even the world's best-known museums. The club was formed to share that expertise; its founders, Marlies Verhoeven and Daisy Peat, previously launched Sotheby's Preferred program, and created the Cultivist to provide a similar service to a wider array of members: anyone who can spare \$2,500 and whose answers to the club's application questionnaire pass muster. (Admittedly, already a rather self-selecting pool.) Membership in the first year of the Cultivist's existence is limited to 1,000, and perks of membership include free, skip-the-line access to 70 museums — with three guests each — and over 30 art fairs, as well as a number of member events, worldwide. With the explicitly international scope of the project in mind, we asked Verhoeven and Peat, along with three of their colleagues in the Cultivist's programming and membership departments, to share a dozen favorite, far-flung art destinations — that haven't yet been Instagrammed to death.



Chalet Hollywood, an art speakeasy designed by Piero Golia. In the foreground, an aquarium by Pierre Huyghe. Credit Josh White

Dallas - The Chalet

“This upcoming project, from Oct. 2015 to Feb. 2016, is part of the Nasher's Sculpture Centre and re-interprets Piero Golia's Hollywood version. Piero will be giving our members a special viewing this fall.”
—MV

On view from October 3, 2015 to February 7, 2016. 2001 Flora St., nashersculpturecenter.org.



A lavish aesthetic interior at Leighton House Museum. Credit Will Pryce

London - Leighton House Museum

“We recently held an event in the original home and studio of Pre-Raphaelite artist Frederic Leighton. Built for Leighton by the architect and designer George Aitchison, it is a [Grade II*](#) listed building and is noted for its elaborate Orientalist and aesthetic interiors. It is one of the only original artist studios of the area still intact and is so tucked away that it is barely known to even the locals.” —Georgina Borthwick, director of programming for Europe

12 Holland Park Road, rbkc.gov.uk.



The main entrance of Casa Wabi, an interdisciplinary art center in Oaxaca, Mexico. Credit Adriana Zehbrauskas for The New York Times

Southern Mexico - Casa Wabi

“Casa Wabi was founded by one of our artist members, Bosco Sodi, and designed by Tadao Ando; it’s a one-hour plane ride from Mexico City. It includes a wonderful hotel that allows you to get fully immersed with the artists in residence. An ideal time to go would be surrounding Zona Maco, one of the more exciting art fairs in South America, in February 2016.” —Joey Lico, director of programming for the Americas

Carretera Federal Salina Cruz - Santiago Pinotepa Nacional Km. 113, Puerto Escondido, Oaxaca, casawabi.org.



A view from the Roof Garden Commission at the Met. Credit Ángel Franco/The New York Times

New York - The Roof Garden Commission, Metropolitan Museum of Art

“A space that is often missed and has held fantastic commissions in the past and has great views of the city. The existing Pierre Huyghe is open to the public from May 12 to Nov. 1. A number of our members go there every week to get away from the business of New York.” —Laura de Gunzburg, deputy director of membership

1000 5th Ave., metmuseum.org.



An installation view of Gianni Motti's "Success Failure (Blue)," 2014, at the Domaine du Muy. Credit J.C. Lett

South of France - Villa Paloma, Fondation Maeght and Domain du Muy

“I was just in the South of France and visited the beautifully restored Villa Paloma (which has one of the best views of the Mediterranean) and the Fondation Maeght (whose courtyard contains both walking man and standing man Giacometti sculptures, amongst others). In Var, a contemporary sculpture park, Domain du Muy, opened on July 13; up for six months, it’s definitely worth a visit.” —Marlies Verhoeven, founder

Fondation Maeght, 623 Chemin des Gardettes, Saint-Paul-de-Vence, fondation-maeght.com; Domaine du Muy, 83490 Le Muy (Var), domainedumuy.com.



Credit Blenheim Palace

Oxfordshire - Lawrence Weiner at Blenheim Palace

"Blenheim Art Foundation's exhibition by the American artist and founding figure of conceptual art Lawrence Weiner at Blenheim Palace will showcase works conceived by the artist over the last several decades, in addition to significant, site-specific works. Works will be integrated throughout the ornately furnished rooms as well as the monumental exterior of the 18th-century building." —Daisy Peat, founder

On view from Oct. 10 through Dec. 21. Woodstock, Oxfordshire OX20 1PP, blenheimpalace.com.



Credit Naho Kubota for Mmuseumm

New York - Mmuseumm

"An elevator-sized [cabinet of curiosities](http://mmuseumm.com) featuring a rotating program of items and oddities contributed by artists, from the profound to the profoundly strange (among the items they've had on view is an index of cornflake shapes)." — MV

4 Cortlandt Alley, mmuseumm.com.



The Wave Organ, an acoustic sculpture by Peter Richards and George Gonzales, creates subtle music from the tide of the bay hitting a jetty. Credit Gaye Laird/Exploratorium

San Francisco - The Wave Organ

“The concept was developed by Peter Richards and was installed in collaboration with sculptor and master stonemason George Gonzales. It’s a sculpture that acts as a theater, but instead of watching something removed from you, your own human experience unfolds — you have to be very present to experience it. It’s best heard at high tide.” —MV

83 Marina Green Dr., exploratorium.edu.



An installation view of "Oscar Murillo: Distribution Center," 2014, at the Mistake Room. Credit Josh White/JW Pictures

Los Angeles - The Mistake Room

“A space where the artist is given the freedom to bring unrealized or ‘failed’ projects — always good things going on there.” —MV

1811 E. 20th St., tmr.la.



An art installation organized by Maurizio Cattelan, Myriam Ben Salah and Marta Papini at Palazzo Cavour for Artissima 2014. Credit Marco Bertorello/Agence France-Presse — Getty Images

Turin - Artissima Art Fair

“An off-the-beaten-track art fair which would be brilliant in combination with a trip to Turin's 20-year-old contemporary art depot Fondazione Sandretto Re Rebaudengo, co-founded by Francesco Bonami, which has an exhibition by the Argentinian artist Adrian Villar Rojas opening the same week.” —DP

On view from November 6 to 8, 2015. Via Bertola, 34, artissima.it.



Credit Nimataliah/Art Resource

Vatican City - Stufetta della Bibbiena

“The existence of the ‘small heated room of Cardinal Bibbiena,’ a bathroom decorated in erotic frescoes in the papal apartments, has long been denied. Access is very difficult to get.” —DP

vaticanstate.va.



Oval at Benesse House Museum on Naoshima is accessible only to its overnight guests. Credit Kosuke Okahara for The New York Times

Southern Japan - Naoshima Island

“The Teshima Art Museum is shaped like a drop of water. On the highest ceiling, two oval openings allow the air, sounds and light of the world outside; and inside there are fountains and an ambiance that changes from hour to hour and season to season, revealing countless appearances as time passes.” — MV

Teshima Art Museum, 607 karato, Teshima, Tonosho-cho, Shozu-gun, Kagawa, benesse-artsite.jp.